

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich's Remarks as Mayor of the Board for 2006

2006 will be a challenging year for our County.

Leading the list of my priorities for the upcoming year are:

- Public safety
- Transportation
- Services for the mentally ill/homeless
- Adoption for foster children
- Expansion and maintenance of our equestrian and hiking trail system.

We will strengthen public safety focusing on the gang violence that is plaguing our schools and communities. To alleviate congestion on the ground and in the air at Los Angeles International Airport, we must develop our regional airports – Palmdale and Ontario – and encourage our cities to utilize creative strategies to reduce traffic congestion, including signal synchronization, reverse flow lanes, and restricting truck deliveries during peak driving hours.

We will also support programs that provide the mentally ill the necessary medical treatment to resume productive lives.

To ensure that our County's 22,000 foster children are placed in loving homes, we will enhance adoption and foster care opportunities with our faith-based communities and other organizations.

We will also keep our emergency preparedness departments trained and focused to respond whenever earthquakes, fires or acts of terror impact our County.

In addition, we must implement the required reforms at King/Drew Medical Center – predicated on the results of the forthcoming CMS and JACHCO audits. If King/Drew fails either one, we must retain vital medical services for the community by implementing a contract with an outside operator or develop a multi-specialty ambulatory care center.

The Board of Supervisors will focus on results and challenge County departments to be proactive, responsible and responsive. The public is both our client and boss deserving of accountability and professionalism from each of us and our departments.

I want to thank and commend the strong and effective members of the County workforce who perform in a professional manner and who have gone the extra mile in protecting public safety or helping a child find a loving home or helping a taxpayer correct a bureaucratic error.



HIGHLIGHTS

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EVENT CALENDAR

Please join Mayor Michael D. Antonovich at his Ninth annual event “Remembering Our Veterans and Their Families Past, Present and Future”

Saturday, May 27 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arcadia County Park, 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia 91006

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden

301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes, please visit www.arboretum.org or call (626) 821-4623

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036

(323) 857-6000

www.lacma.org

Through February 12 - Contemporary Project 9

Through February 20 - Lee Mullican: An Abundant Harvest of Sun

Music Center

135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211

www.musiccenter.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Jan 25 - March 5 – Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest”

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Through Feb 19 – Giacomo Puccini’s “Madama Butterfly”

Kirk Douglas Theatre

601 West Temple Street, Los Angeles 90012

Through Feb 12 – Permanent Collection

Mark Taper Forum

Feb 12 - March 19 – Anton Chekhov’s “The Cherry Orchard”

Walt Disney Concert Hall

151 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

FEBRUARY

2-4 - Goerne Sings Shostakovich

7 - Chamber: Ades

8 - Maria Schneider Orchestra

10-12 - Thomas Ades “The Tempest”

11 - Toyota Symphonies for Youth – Mozart’s Birthday Party (11 a.m.)

12 - Joshua Bell Recital (7:30 p.m.)

14 - Les Violons du Roy

16-19 - Bronfman & Dohnanyi

19 - Santa Monica High School Symphony Orchestra (7:30 p.m.)

21 - Green Umbrella: Ades

22 - Thibaudet Recital

23-25 - Mozart Requiem

Animals and Public Health

We often think of animal health and public health as separate entities. However, hundreds of years of experience have shown animal and human health to be closely related. Like people, domestic animals and wildlife are exposed to infectious diseases and environmental contaminants in the air, soil, water and food. They can suffer from acute and chronic diseases from such exposure. Often, animals serve as disease sentinels or early warning systems, for the community. The bird’s respiratory system is much more sensitive to toxic gases and airborne particulates than people’s respiratory track. The classic example was the use of canaries in underground mines to detect toxic gases.

Animal surveillance for such infectious diseases as: bubonic plague and rabies is done routinely by local health agencies. Animal outbreaks of these diseases typically precede human outbreaks, allowing time for preventive action to reduce or prevent human cases. During the past 15 years, the Department of Health Services has identified about one rabid animal a month and all the rabid animals were bats. A rabid puppy from Thailand entered the Los Angeles International Airport in 2005. International ports can be viewed as gateways to commerce and others may perceive the ports as doorways to disease.

Animals and People Share Diseases

Domestic animals and wildlife can provide early information on what infectious and noninfectious diseases are occurring

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Articles and other submissions to the *County DIGEST* may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

County DIGEST Editorial Offices
Department of Human Resources
3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1000 (10th floor)
Los Angeles, CA 90010

(213) 639-6386

(213) 639-0940 FAX

Available online at: dhr.lacounty.info

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Supervisor Molina Honored for Outstanding Efforts for Parks and Recreation

Supervisor Gloria Molina was recently named “Woman of the Year in Parks and Recreation” by the environmentalist group People for Parks at a ceremony held at the Descanso Gardens and co-sponsored with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department.

The group specifically cited Supervisor Molina for exemplifying People for Parks’ mission to preserve and expand public park systems, natural areas and other open spaces, while enhancing and expanding recreational opportunities within the geographical area of the County of Los Angeles.

People for Parks was the chief sponsor of the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Acts of 1992 and 1996, which brought in \$860 million for capital improvements and park development. This funding has enabled many park improvement projects to be completed throughout the County. A top priority for Supervisor Molina has been to bring more parks and open space to inner-city areas. She has worked persistently for improved green space and recreation for the people of her district, as well as the County as a whole.

The Supervisor is acutely aware that as property values skyrocket in the County, fewer people can afford to buy a home, which means that for many people – particularly children – public parks take the place of private back yards.

She has been an instrumental force behind the Los Angeles River Center, El Bosque del Rio Hondo at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, and the Los Angeles Bikeway Plan. Supervisor Molina has also financed a variety of recreational amenities at various local parks.

A new concept for County-operated parks is the water play area, also known as “splash pads.” Supervisor Molina encouraged Parks and Recreation to expedite the initial project at Valleydale Park so the community would have access during the oftentimes sweltering end-of-summer and early-fall months. “Splash pads” are comprised of equipment such as water cannons, bucket spills, crawl-through arches and other apparatus that operate with intermittent sequencing and timing so participants have to guess which feature will activate next. They can be enjoyed by the whole family and



Supervisor Gloria Molina, Woman of the Year in Parks and Recreation, with Ozzie Silna, environmentalist and philanthropist, Man of the Year.

do not require park staff to operate and supervise them. The water used is recycled, thus allowing for cost savings for water and the personnel that would be required at swimming pools. They are also Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, so the facilities are accessible to children and adults with disabilities. Six additional water play areas have been funded at First District parks that will be ready by summer 2006.

Whenever possible, Supervisor Molina has leveraged partnerships with the County and private, non-profit agencies to maximize returns for County residents. For instance, Supervisor Molina established “The Greening Institute,” a series of workshops to help

non-profit organizations gain grant funding by linking them with City and County agencies, enabling greening projects adjacent to the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo to materialize. She also partnered with the Cities of Bell, Cudahy and Maywood to create a patchwork of riverfront parks featuring decorative signage and gates, as well as improved bike paths. Knowing the importance of public safety for visitors to County parks, Supervisor Molina also made it a priority to link park staff and law enforcement personnel in order to formulate an effective plan of action that ensures a safe, enjoyable experience for children and families.

Supervisor Molina has been the driving force behind many other park-related capital projects including the construction of a gymnasium at City Terrace Park, a senior center at Roosevelt Park, lifeguard facilities at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, as well as a skating rink and Tiny Tots Adventure Zone within Mayberry Park. There will be more park enhancements in the near future – many associated with the “Emerald Necklace” of rivers and green spaces gracing the San Gabriel Valley via the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers. It was at Supervisor Molina’s instigation that staff at the Department of Parks and Recreation developed a plan to enhance parks Countywide – and this plan ultimately resulted in the addition of \$37 million to the department’s FY 2005-2006 budget. The funding will be used to make needed repairs and hire additional recreation and maintenance staff, which will allow for cleaner parks, with more programming. These collective efforts will leave County parks in better shape than they have been for many years.

RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Richard A. Russell

ASSESSOR: Clara L. Hawkins, Eric A. Kipnis, James B. Peatman

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Gerald W. Morris

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Patricia A. Zabaro

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Johnnie M. Spicer

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Geneva Berger, Christine E. Campos, Mary I. Elshehawy, Otis L. Thompson

COUNTY COUNSEL: Mary C. Nunez

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Linda C. Capaci

FIRE: Jane G. Fleming, Bruce Y. McLain, Jack C. Rumfola, David C. Story

HEALTH SERVICES: David Bobo, Charito D. De Arce, Susan M. Hamusek, Bernice Ligon, Armando Lopez Jr., Prapaporn Luecha, Pernell R. Myrick, Nancy E. Parker, Bertha M. Sanchez, Helen Serna, Louise Thomas, Fannie L. Thompson, Diane Walker, Bobbie G. Williams, Paulette E. Wince

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Christopher J. Chadwick

INTERNAL SERVICES: Juanito P. Deomampo, Julio Ortega

MENTAL HEALTH: Toni C. Delliquadri, Olga A. Valdez

PROBATION: William Graves, Ruby B. Hurd, Peter A. McEachern, Henry Ortega, John L. Steward

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Kolani Faimalo, Clifton Knight II, Velma M. Lorio, Johnny C. Ross

PUBLIC WORKS: Rafael F. Bernal, Delano J. Lampe, Albert Roberts, Joseph Sforza

SHERIFF: Peter A. Fosselman, Nabil Morcos, David G. Ramirez

SUPERIOR COURT: Mary K. Cobbs, Marjorie Robinson, Barbara J. Schneider, Stephen P. Taylor

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Willie M. Pleasant

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Martin Barrera III

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Oretta Bonds

FIRE: Mitchell J. Gahie III

HEALTH SERVICES: Don R. Gatewood, Donnell Green, Sol. G. Joya, Robert B. Khoo, Daisy M. McDonald, Mary A. Nisley

MENTAL HEALTH: Pamela L. Davis, Jay E. Glenn

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Terumi Sumida

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Margaret Meza, Pauline J. Rudometkin

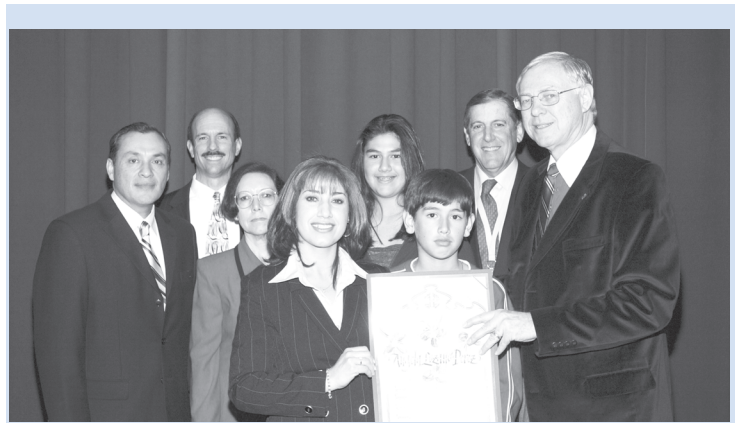
PUBLIC WORKS: Juan A. Cabrera, Joseph Gore

SHERIFF: Victoire Morcos, Ruby Tyler

Employee of the Month: Health Services' Angela Lozano-Perez

With the department's top brass in attendance, the last Employee of the Month for the year 2005 was honored.

Angela Lozano-Perez, a 17-year employee of the County of Los Angeles, was honored as the December 2005 Employee of the Month. She received her scroll from Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor of the Board, and accolades from the department's executive management team which included Dr. Bruce Chernof, Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health Services; Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Director of Public Health; and Dr. Ricardo Calderon, Area Director and Health Officer.



"Your work represents what we need from all of our employees," Dr. Chernof said. "Your willingness to step up and lead and do what we need for our patients, those who have us as their primary source of care, is absolutely wonderful. I hope everybody in the department sees you as the success that you are."

"Angela represents the best in public health: great leadership, great initiative and great public health nursing." "A great example to everybody," Dr. Fielding added.

Currently a Nurse Manager at the Hollywood/Wilshire Public Health Center of the Department of Health Services, Lozano-Perez utilizes a team-building approach to ensure that patients and the community receive excellent quality care. Using this method, she collaborated with staff from the Business Office, Public Health Investigations, Medical Doctors and Nursing to increase accessibility to health care. As a result, clinical services and extended hours were added using existing resources. Furthermore, due to her perseverance, diligence

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and initiative, extended hours were also implemented in Communicable Diseases, Immunizations and Phone Triage. This change transpired a month later which was to the delight of patients. "The increased patient flow and access to health care are two projects I feel proud of," Lozano-Perez said.

Continuing in her successful efforts to coalesce with staff from various sections, she also teaches and trains staff to form coalitions and partnerships within the community. As a result, partnerships have been forged with the STD Mobile Van, Los Angeles Free Clinic, Queens Care, Midnight Mission and the Los Angeles County Fair which led to increased community outreach and visibility and to better service to the community.

Ms. Lozano-Perez obtained bachelor's and master's of science degrees in nursing, is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and in her spare time, volunteers at her local elementary and junior high school, community center and Girl Scout troop.

"This is what I consider a team award," remarked the honoree at the ceremony. She credits the collaboration and support of everyone at Wilshire/Hollywood from custodians to x-ray technicians to public health investigators for this achievement. She especially thanks her family, who are supportive of her long working hours and are very proud of her success.

Congratulations!

Supervisor Burke Hosts First Annual Party for Children of Incarcerated Parents

More than 150 children of incarcerated families turned out for a "Toys for Our Children" party three days before last Christmas in Kenneth Hahn Park. "We were amazed at the turnout," Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke said. "We expected about the number of children who came, but we didn't expect such an age spread." There were children from 3 to 16 years old. Organizers had expected children 5 to 12 years old.

"And they were so enthusiastic and so grateful," she said. "Thank goodness I and other Supervisors have been hosting special events for foster children. However, the children of parents who are in jails or prisons are often forgotten, despite the fact that so many of them step into a revolving door of kids who follow a parent or parents to a life in jail."



Supervisor Burke arrived around noon to help serve lunch and to hand out gifts, along with volunteers from co-sponsor Walden House and other community based organizations.



The children arrived at 11:30 a.m. at Burke Roche Point, on buses provided by Supervisor Burke. They were treated to toys, donated by Mattel for the younger children, and by the Kenneth Hahn Park Walking Club for older children. They also received clothing and a free lunch consisting of hot dogs, drinks and barbecue. Each child also had a photo taken with Santa Claus (*pictured*) so they could be sent to parents. "Yes, some of the older kids wanted a picture with Santa Claus too," Supervisor Burke laughs.

Supervisor Burke arrived at the Park around noon, to help serve lunch and hand out gifts. She was helped by 30 volunteers from her downtown and field offices, the Kenneth Hahn Park Walking Club, and the co-sponsor of the event, Walden House, a non-profit community-based organization that provides after school programs to keep children from joining gangs.

The children left the park at 2 p.m. "I'm very grateful to Walden House, the Kenneth Hahn Park Walking Club, and Mattel, and to all the volunteers from my offices," Supervisor Burke said. "Without them we couldn't do it. And next year I expect this will be an even bigger event."

ENRICHING LIVES...

Quality and Productivity Commission Gives District Attorney's JOIN Program Top Award

*Imagine you're a teenager.
You don't have a criminal record, but that's about to change.
You've committed a crime and been arrested.
Now you face prosecution.*



You and your parents know that a criminal conviction can affect your future. It can limit your educational and employment opportunities. In a worst-case scenario, it can serve as a springboard into continued juvenile delinquency and crime.

Is there anything you can do to make amends for your crime, get back on the right track, and avoid a criminal record? If you're a juvenile offender in the County of Los Angeles, the answer is yes. You may be able to participate in the District Attorney's JOIN (Juvenile Offender Intervention Network) program in lieu of prosecution.



JOIN was named the top award winner by the Quality and Productivity Commission at the 19th annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program last October. It was hailed as a program that not only saves the County money, but also saves young people's futures.

JOIN achieves swift justice and provides accountability for first-time juvenile offenders who commit serious, nonviolent offenses such as theft and vandalism.



County of Los Angeles VISION

Our ***purpose*** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our ***philosophy*** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our ***shared values***:

- **A can-do attitude** - we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** - we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Compassion** - we treat those we serve and each other in a kind and caring manner.
- **Commitment** - we always go the extra mile to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - we act consistent with our values.
- **Professionalism** - we perform to a high standard of excellence.
- **Respect for diversity** - we value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** - we take the action needed in a timely manner.

Our ***position*** as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- a capability to undertake programs that have public value;
- an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.

The program is implemented by hearing officers in the District Attorney's office in a non-courtroom setting. Participants volunteer to participate in the JOIN program as an alternative to juvenile court. To participate in JOIN, offenders must sign a contract agreeing to acknowledge responsibility for their actions, make restitution, perform community service, attend school regularly, participate in counseling, and remain arrest-free. Parents must also agree to attend parenting classes.

Hearing officers monitor offenders' compliance with the contract for one year. If a juvenile fails to complete the terms of the program, his or her case is referred back to the Juvenile Division of the District Attorney's Office for prosecution. Juveniles who successfully complete the JOIN program have their cases dismissed and avoid a criminal record.

Since 2003, more than 2,500 JOIN cases have been heard. Eighty-five percent of JOIN participants complete the program successfully.

"When I was first elected D.A., I determined this to be the most effective crime prevention program being undertaken in the D.A.'s Office, but it was being used on a very limited basis," D.A. Steve Cooley said following the October awards ceremony. "Despite tough budgetary times, we managed to expand the JOIN program four years ago to all ten juvenile office locations, and it's been tremendously effective."

In addition to offering rehabilitation to young offenders who complete the program, JOIN has provided millions of dollars in savings to taxpayers.

The average juvenile case takes three months to process and costs \$7,000. This includes costs for the courts, police, probation, defense, and prosecution. In contrast, a JOIN case is resolved in less than one month after the case is presented for filing and costs \$910.

The greatest benefit offered by JOIN is not reflected in dollar amounts, but in the thanks that participants often give their hearing officers.

As one former JOIN participant wrote, "There are a couple reasons I'm thankful for this program It makes me feel good about myself as far as wanting to turn my life around and the way I view things ... [and] it saved me from the probability of receiving a criminal record which would definitely haunt me for years to come."

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

Mayor Antonovich Hosts Ninth Annual Holiday Party for Los Angeles County Foster Children

For the ninth year in a row, Mayor Antonovich sponsored and hosted a holiday party for children currently under County care. Caregivers, foster parents and more than 400 children were greeted with food, presents, holiday cheer, and a free day inside Six Flags Magic Mountain Amusement Park.

“The holiday season can be difficult for these children and this party really brightens their spirits,” Mayor Antonovich said.

Holiday party sponsors include Newhall Land, KB Homes, Southern California Edison, SBC, Xerox Corporation, and the Fire Department,



who collected the toys through their annual “Spark of Love” toy drive.

To further support the Department of Children and Family Services and its efforts to encourage families to offer permanent homes to waiting children, Mayor Antonovich gave a special presentation at a

Board of Supervisors meeting to recognize the innovative “Heart Gallery” photo exhibit project.

“There is an insufficient number of approved, prospective adoptive parents willing and able to provide a permanent home for children in long-term foster care, especially older children, sibling groups and children with special medical, developmental, or emotional needs,” Mayor Antonovich said. “The best opportunity for a child to become a successful and productive adult is to have a stable, permanent, and loving family. Otherwise, they will find their way into the County morgue or penal system.”

The “Heart Gallery” exhibit consists of photographs of waiting children, taken by photographers who donated their time and skill. The exhibit was at the Westfield West Covina mall until January 6, and will be at the Del Amo Fashion Center through January 29.

For more information about adoption or becoming a foster parent, please contact the Department of Children and Family Services at (888) 811-1121.

Consumer Affairs Receives \$5 Million Cy Pres Award

The Department of Consumer Affairs has been awarded \$5 million from a major consumer class action lawsuit. Pastor Herrera, Jr., Director of Consumer Affairs said, “The Department is proud to be recognized as a leader in consumer protection, and in promoting a fair and vibrant marketplace for consumers, businesses and communities.” The money will be used to enhance consumer protection and education services to the public.



Pictured from left to right are Tim Bissell, Armando Nogal, Rigoberto Reyes, Director Pastor Herrera, Jr., Linda Lau-Wong, La France Toliver and Julia Hong.

The award resulted from a \$37.5 million private class action lawsuit entitled *Benjamin Griego, et al., v. Rent-A-Center, Inc., et al*, San Diego Superior Court, JCCP No. 4244 (Griego). The defendant, Rent-A-Center, Inc., was accused of making inadequate and misleading disclosures to individuals who entered into rental-purchase agreements. The settlement required that restitution be made to Rent-A-Center, Inc. customers and that unclaimed funds be distributed as *cy pres* awards to a select number of consumer protection agencies. *Cy pres* (pronounced *see-pray*), is a French word that means ‘as close as possible’. This legal doctrine allows for unclaimed funds to be distributed for their next best use, which is to aid and protect

CY PRES AWARD
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Supervisor Yaroslavsky Attends Signing of 405 Freeway Improvement Bill

Pictured from right to left are, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Rep. Howard Berman, Assemblymembers Lloyd Levine and Keith Richman, Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Rep. Brad Sherman and Assemblymember Fran Pavley gather near the San Diego Freeway (405) at Olympic Blvd. for the official signing of SB 1026, authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Los Angeles). The bill will authorize use of the design-build construction process to expedite construction of a new car-pool lane on the northbound 405 between the Santa Monica and Ventura Freeways (I-10/I-101). Supervisor Yaroslavsky praised Kuehl's bill as an innovative way to relieve congestion on one of the nation's most crowded freeway corridors, noting that the design-build strategy will advance the project construction schedule by six years, starting in 2009 and protecting \$130 million in federal funding earmarked for the project by Rep. Berman.



ANIMALS & PUBLIC HEALTH

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in the community. Forewarning allows steps to be taken to reduce and prevent the build-up of such conditions. For example, thousands of sick and dying crows announced the arrival of West Nile virus in the Western hemisphere (New York) in 1999. Following that, West Nile spread across the nation within five years. Dead crows heralded the arrival of the virus in the County of Los Angeles before the first human cases were detected.



1953, the first public rabies vaccination clinics, took all sizes of dogs.



Veterinarians, Karen and Brit outside the animal disease surveillance van. Dr. Karen Ehnert performs West Nile tests on dead birds in the van.

Each year, an estimated 4.7 million people are bitten. As many as 800,000 dog bite victims, most of them children, require medical attention. Homeowners may be shocked when they receive a letter from their homeowner's insurance company informing them their coverage was dropped because of their dog. Ways to reduce dog bites are to educate people about bite prevention, and people with dogs should practice responsible pet ownership. There are more than 60 million pet dogs in the U.S. and nearly 70 million pet cats. When family increases so does the ownership of pets. Dog owning households spent almost 38% more in 2001 than in 1996.

Were you aware that the nation's most recent School of Veterinary Medicine is located in Pomona, Los Angeles County? Its first class started in the fall of 2003 and today, over 70% of veterinary students are women. Third and fourth year students interested in public health may rotate through Veterinary Public Health to obtain "hands on" experience.

The Department of Health Services had their first veterinary extern in 2005. Joyce Lee, a fourth year veterinary student at Wisconsin's School of Veterinary Medicine, was assigned to Veterinary Public Health. Such programs exist at the state and federal levels, but are new to local agencies.

CY PRES AWARD

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consumers. This remedy prevents unclaimed funds from being returned to the defendant.

The *cy pres* award recognizes the reputation the Department of Consumer Affairs has established as a leader in consumer protection, as well as the strong partnerships the department has built in the consumer protection community.

The Department provides services to over 700,000 consumers each year. Department staff provide consumer counseling, investigate consumer complaints, real estate fraud and complaints from cable television subscribers. The department also provides procedural information on small claims cases and offers mediation services. All services are free to County of Los Angeles residents. Consumers needing assistance can contact the department at (800) 593-8222 or online at lacountydca.info.

Mayor Antonovich Welcomes 2006 Tournament of Roses Queen and Court to Board Meeting

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich recognized the 2006 Tournament of Roses 88th Rose Queen Camille Clark and the Royal Court at a recent Board of Supervisors meeting.



Mayor Antonovich with Tournament of Roses Queen, Camille Clark.



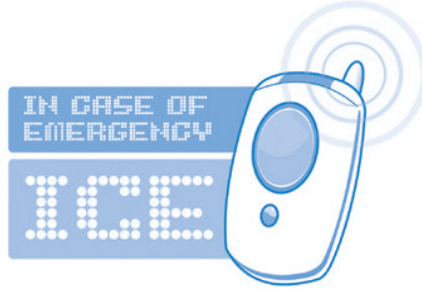
Pictured from left to right are Princess Rachel Geragos, Princess Shannon Bowman, Princess Eliza Walper, Queen Camille Clark, Mayor Antonovich, Princess Alyssa Jones, Princess Carolyn Loo, and Princess Michelle Corral.

Rose Queen Camille Clark is a senior at La Salle High School and resides in Pasadena. She is a member of the varsity cheer squad, National Honor Society, California Scholarship Federation and the Junior Classical League. Queen Camille is also a member of her school's student life and student ambassador councils. Through L.E.A.D., she tutors inner city public school students and also volunteers at Union Station and the Fred Jordan Mission. Queen Camille hopes to attend the University of Virginia where she will major in finance.

The theme for this year's 117th annual Rose Parade is "It's Magical." Because the first of the year falls on a Sunday, the parade was held on Monday, January 2, with Grand Marshal Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor leading the festivities.

Not Using ICE Can Have Chilling Effects

Storing In Case of Emergency (ICE) contact info in your cell phone could save your life



If you're injured and unresponsive, would emergency workers be able to quickly determine whom to notify?

If you are allergic to certain medications, or have other medical conditions that could affect treatment options, and you are unable to communicate with the rescue workers, would your emergency contact information be fast and easy for your rescuers to locate? With ICE, the answer would be YES.

By adding an ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact to your cell phone directory, a paramedic or other rescuer would quickly know whom to contact, not only to notify them of your condition, but most importantly to discover information about your medical history that could be crucial to saving your life.

It's a simple thing to do. Just add the ICE designation next to the name of the person in your cell phone directory that you want notified in the event you have an accident or other emergency. If you have more than one contact name, just use ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc. The ICE idea, which was originated by a paramedic in the UK, is being promoted by emergency officials and cell phone companies throughout the world.

"It's something that individuals can do for themselves and their families," according to Eric Holdeman, director of King County (Seattle) Office of Emergency Management. "Without the contact listing, we would be saying, 'who is this person and whom do we contact?'"

Since so many people fail to carry emergency contact information in their wallets, but almost everyone these days keeps their cell phone handy, using ICE can have life-altering effects. So, why not ICE up your phone today? Don't forget to advise your contacts of any allergies or other medical conditions you have. It could save your life!

Supervisor Knabe Hails Operation Read a Success

Nearly 5,000 Los Angeles County children attended special screenings of the new movie "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" as part of Supervisor Don Knabe's annual Operation Read program. The 5,000 students that saw the movie on December 12 and 13 were just the first group of over 15,000 elementary through high school-aged students who participated in Operation Read last year.



Supervisor Knabe first launched the program in 1998 as part of a push to create new literacy and arts education initiatives. Originally, Operation Read was available only to children in the County's youth probation camps. Because of the success of the program, it has since expanded into schools across the County. For the past several years, the book chosen for the program has been connected to a new holiday movie, with students having the opportunity to attend special screenings once they read the book and complete special lesson plans.

Last year, each student participating in Operation Read received a free copy of the 'Chronicles of Narnia' and depending on their grade level, may have also attended plays or exhibits on the life of C.S. Lewis, written essays, or completed art projects.

"Literacy is very important to me, and the essence of this program is to get students to read and enjoy it," Supervisor Knabe said. "You cannot get even the most basic job in our society without the ability to read, because reading is at the core of everything we do. I am so proud of all of the students who read the book and understand the importance reading has in their lives."

Share It



Frequently Asked Numbers: Employee Benefits Contact Information

When you need to make a change in your benefit elections due to a life event change, such as adding a newborn to your medical plan, you can do so by logging on to the Web enrollment system at www.buckhrsolutions.com/countyla or by calling the telephone enrollment system, toll free, at (888) 822-0487. For general information, access the Department of Human Resources Web site at <http://dhr.lacounty.info/> or call the County's Benefits Hotline at (213) 388-9982.

If you have any questions about a specific plan, contact the plan provider. The numbers are as follows:

Medical

Blue Cross CaliforniaCare HMO	(800) 227-3771	www.bluecrossca.com
Blue Cross Catastrophic	(800) 288-2539	www.bluecrossca.com
Blue Cross PLUS	(800) 288-6921	www.bluecrossca.com
Blue Cross Prudent Buyer	(800) 288-2539	www.bluecrossca.com
CIGNA	(800) 842-6635	www.cigna.com
Kaiser Permanente	(800) 464-4000	www.kaiserpermanente.org
PacifiCare	(800) 367-2660	www.pacificare.com
ALADS/Blue Cross	(800) 842-6635	www.bluecrossca.com
CAPE/Blue Shield	(800) 487-3092	www.mylifepath.com
Fire Fighters Local 1014	(800) 660-1014	www.local1014.org

Dental

DeltaCare	(800) 422-4234	www.deltadentalca.org
Delta Dental	(888) 335-8227	www.deltadentalca.org
Safeguard	(800) 880-1800	www.safeguard.net
ALADS/Blue Cross (dental)	(800) 842-6635	www.bluecrossca.com

Life and AD & D

CIGNA Life	(800) 842-6635	www.cigna.com
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Flexible Spending Accounts

Administrator (Ceridian)	(866) 300-2303
www.buckhrsolutions.com/countyla	

Deferred Income Plans

Deferred Earnings (Great-West Retirement Services)	(800) 947-0845
Horizons (Great-West Retirement Services)	(800) 947-0845
Pension Savings (County of Los Angeles)	(213) 738-2242
Savings Plan (Great-West Retirement Services)	(800) 947-0845



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